

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are active in the present application. The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claims 36 and 37 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. No new matter is added by this amendment. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

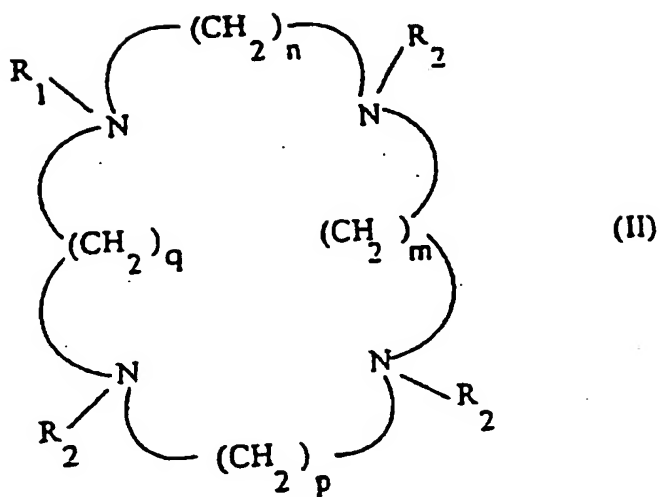
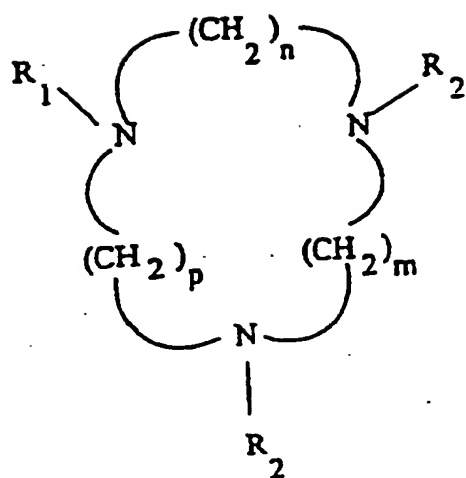
--4. (Amended) Method according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1 in which the conditioning of said resin is carried out by contacting said resin with a buffer solution, especially aqueous, in which the pH is 4 to 6, possibly preceded and/or followed by a rinsing of the resin with a major solvent of the liquid to be treated, especially with distilled water.

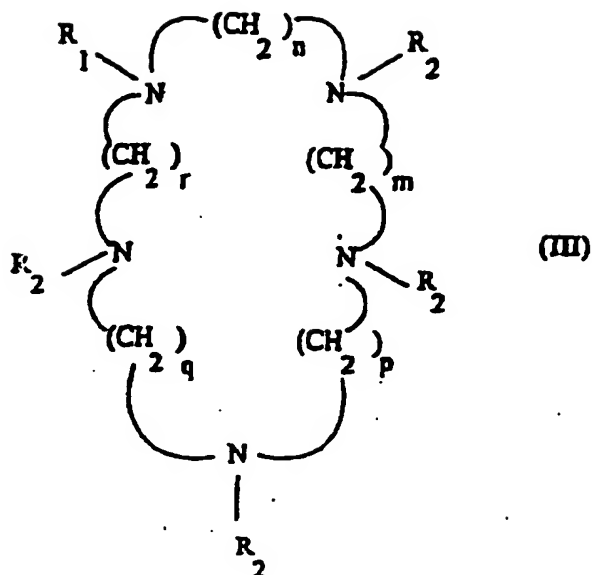
7. (Amended) Method according to Claim 5 [and Claim 6] in which said regeneration is carried out by passing a regeneration solution through the column(s) in the reverse direction from the direction of circulation of the liquid to be treated.

9. (Amended) Method according to Claim 7 [or Claim 8] in which at the end of the regeneration step, said regeneration solution containing the metals initially fixed on the resin is treated to recover the metals.

10. (Amended) Method according to [any one of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1 comprising a prior step for treatment of the liquid by contacting with an ion exchanger or organic or mineral adsorbent different from said polyazacycloalkane resin grafted on a support.

17. (Amended) Method according to [any one of Claims 1 to 16] Claim 1 in which the treated liquid is an aqueous liquid.





in which n, m, p, q, r which may be the same or different are equal to 2 or 3, R₁ is a solid support, R₂ represents the hydrogen atom or the (CH₂)₂-R₃ group, R₃ being a functional group chosen from the group formed by COOH, CONH₂, CH₂OH, CN or COOR₄, R₄ representing an alkyl or benzyl group, or R₂ represents the -(CH₂)-R₅ group, R₅ representing COOH or PO₃R₆, R₆ representing an alkyl group or hydrogen.

22. (Amended) Method according to [any one of Claims 1 to 21] Claim 1 in which the solid support is an organic polymer that may or may not be crosslinked.

32. (Amended) Method according to Claim 30 [or Claim 31] in which the amount of polyazacycloalkane grafted per unit weight of solid support, such as silica is greater than 0.4 mmol.g⁻¹.

35. (Amended) Installation according to Claim 33 [or Claim 34] comprising in addition, means for regenerating said chelating ion exchange resin and possibly, said ion exchanger or organic or mineral adsorbent.

Claims 36-57 (New).--

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